

(1) Firefighters who sustain minor injuries but are also contaminated with DU should be decontaminated prior to treatment of those minor injuries, provided concurrence is obtained from a medical person. Firefighting equipment, including vehicles, exiting the fire area are to be monitored by radiation protection personnel, as directed in chapter 7.

(2) After the fire has been extinguished, controlled access around the tank must be maintained until it is cleared by EOD and radiation protection personnel.

(3) Upon arrival of EOD, render safe operations will be performed. Radiation protection personnel will set up a radiation contamination control line upon their arrival. The radiation contamination control line should be adjusted depending on the extent of ground contamination. The radiation protection personnel should not approach the tank prior to EOD declaring the area safe from an explosives standpoint. The EOD personnel should not approach the tank without appropriate clothing and respiratory protection, as described in chapter 7. The number of emergency personnel who are to pass over the radiation contamination control line should be kept to an absolute minimum.

(4) A person should be assigned to assure that the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of those people who cross over the radiation contamination control line, whether contaminated or not, are recorded along with the results from monitoring them.

(5) The chain of command/local military community will assure that waste receptacles are available, and located at the radiation contamination control line, for the disposal of contaminated clothing and equipment. Metal containers with lids should be available with 4 mil plastic bag inner linings for solid waste. Liquids must be segregated from solids to process the waste through the Army system. Liquids should be collected in plastic, earthenware, or thick-walled glass bottle inner containers. Leakproof metal cans may also be used, provided the container is chemically inert to the liquid. Radioactive waste should be held at a nearby Army installation, and disposition instructions requested in accordance with AR 385-11 from Commander, HQ, IOC, ATTN: AMSIO-DMW, Rock Island, IL 61299-7630.

(6) After the EOD has declared the area and the tank safe from an explosive standpoint, radiation protection personnel will conduct a radiological survey of the ground, anything lying on the ground, and the exterior of the tank. The radiological survey of the ground should be conducted using methods described in chapter 7.

(7) Areas noted to be contaminated should be marked, and decontamination should be performed as described in chapter 8. No attempt should be made at the accident site to decontaminate the inside of the tank. There is no need for anyone other than EOD personnel to enter the tank. However, depending on the classification of the DU rounds involved in the fire, and the location of the accident, the EOD team may have to remove the penetrators from the tank before the tank is moved off the site. If the DU penetrators are to be removed at the accident site, they are to be handled and prepared for shipment under guidance of the radiation protection officer and the transportation officer.

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(8) Upon decontamination of the exterior of the tank, any openings will be sealed to preclude the escape of any interior contamination to the environment. All openings are to be sealed with plastic, taped, and oversprayed or brushed with strippable coating compound (NSN 8030-00-264-5837).

(9) Before transporting the tank to the designated facility, any contaminated ground surface over which the tank must pass to exit the radiation contamination control line must first be decontaminated. This may entail the removal of the top layer of soil and disposal of the soil as radioactive waste, or the cleaning of a hard-surfaced road.

(10) Do not use the tank as a waste receptacle and do not attempt to decontaminate the interior of the tank.

(11) Following the tank's removal, the area that had been under the tank must be surveyed, and if necessary, decontaminated. Concurrently, all other surfaces that were contaminated are to be decontaminated to background levels. Radioactive waste must be transported to a nearby Army installation for holding until it can be disposed of as radioactive waste in accordance with AR 385-11.

(12) Security around the accident site must be maintained until the RPO certifies that the area has been satisfactorily decontaminated.

(13) For information regarding the Department of Transportation requirements for transporting the tank to a CONUS decontamination facility or disposal of the radioactive waste generated during the cleanup activities contact: Commander, HQ, IOC, ATTN: AMSIO-DMW, Rock Island, IL 61299-7630.

(14) See attached appendix H for Tank Fire Checklist.

CHAPTER 5

BRADLEY FIGHTING VEHICLE (BFV) FIRES

5-1. APPLICABILITY. This document applies to peacetime, or operations other than war, incidents and accidents involving BFVs uploaded with depleted uranium (DU) ammunition. The Army Regulation 700-48, Management of Equipment Contaminated with Depleted Uranium or Radioactive Commodities, and accompanying Army Pamphlet 700-48, Handling Procedures for Equipment Contaminated with Depleted Uranium or Radioactive Commodities, address combat scenarios.

5-2. FIRE PREVENTION PRECAUTIONS. Each individual involved in BFV operations should understand and practice fire prevention precautions. Crewmembers should be alert for the smell of smoke or fuel. They should keep engine and crew compartments free of unnecessary combustible materials and store organizational clothing and individual equipment in accordance with the loading plan. They should ensure antennas on vehicles are tied down to specified heights to prevent striking overhead electrical wires. Periodically, the vehicle commander should check the grilles for evidence of smoke or indications of fire. Properly maintain fixed fire extinguishing systems and inspect at frequencies described in operators' technical manuals. BFV personnel should be adequately instructed on preventing and extinguishing fires in vehicles. Crewmembers should review local fire regulations and procedures. BFV crews should practice fire drills at frequencies required to ensure automatic implementation of firefighting techniques should a fire occur.

NOTE

The following procedures apply to BFVs that are uploaded with M919 25mm depleted uranium rounds.

5-3. GUIDELINES. These guidelines are for those involved in writing standing operating procedures (SOP) for, preparing for, and responding to, a BFV fire involving ammunition containing DU. Appointment of an armor/infantry unit BFV fire control officer, captain, or higher grade that is familiar with the local SOP to implement and coordinate control, reporting, and disposal is recommended. If a BFV fire involves ammunition containing DU, take the following actions:

a. Should crewmembers have to evacuate the BFV, they should do the following:

- Safety Perimeter Distance of 1,250 feet*
- (1) Execute emergency engine shut down.
 - (2) Driver activates fire extinguisher handle for the engine compartment.
 - (3) Crew leaving the rear of the vehicle activates the fire extinguisher handle at the rear.
 - (4) Move a safe distance away, upwind from any smoke coming out of the BFV. A safety perimeter of at least 1,250 feet (381 meters) is recommended for unexploded ordnance.
 - (5) One person should keep passersby away with the assistance of the local authorities (i.e. police, fire department, or military police) as soon as possible. Bilingual instructions may be useful in accomplishing this task. A second person should immediately notify:
 - (a) Nearest fire department, whether military or municipal, if not already on the scene.
 - (b) Police (military or municipal), if not already on the scene.
 - (c) Chain of command/local military organization. Notify the Army Operations Center at (703) 697-0218 (collect).
 - (6) Limit access, within safety perimeter, to emergency response personnel consisting of firefighters, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel, radiation safety personnel, and others, as necessary. Record names of all persons entering the safety perimeter.